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GABBY HAYES VERSUS BEAVER BEN



## GABBY HAYES WESTERN . Lawrence & M. Heigh

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## PAYDIRT SURPRISE

A BUCK DESMOND Adventure

By Dick Kraus

ClOWLY, Back Demond role over the prairie rise. As he topped the hill, he caid in his borner and reside caully in the desired in his borner and reside caully in the care of t

were gaping holes . . . but it still could be lived in. "Let's take a look at the mine," Buck mur-

His knees urged the bay forward, "We've got to get to work, and there's no time for starting like right now!" JUST A FEW DAYS before, Buck had

Tumbleweed was going back East to school. But as he watched the train grow smaller in the distance, Buck had realized that he had

a problem on his bands.
Turnbleweed's school tultion fees would have to be paid, and Buck had already used up all his scanty savings. How could be raise

the monay now?

It was then that the rambling cowbay ye membered the old Paydirt silver mane. Years before, while roaming through the prairie lands, Back had come upon a deserted silver mine—the Paydirt. It was gloomy, gutted, and fallen in. Evidently there want a Beblie's worth of silver in it. Bus Back had, just one worth of silver in it. Bus Back had, just one and the silver want in the silver had, silver and the silver was the silver of the silver with the silver of the silver with the silver of the silver was the silver of the silver of

average yield

But Buck wasn't one to stay put long! He'd
worked the mine for a few weeks, then pulled

stakes and moved on.

Now, needing money for Tumbleweed, Buck thought of the Paydert and decided to take a crack at it again. Loading a male with supplies, he'd moved out of town. After the days of riding, he'd reached the deserted shaft.

REERTED? Buck tensed in the saddle, and his eyes squinted. "Not exactly! Looks as if someone bas the same idea? bad." For as he rode forward quietly, a desimcial figure had clambured up out of the old shaft. He was heavily-tamed, and were a

shaft. He was heavily-tanned, and were a week's growth of beard. "Hello there, stranger," Buck called. At the rambling cowboy's voice, the coan whited suddenive His band

waitred studently. His hand moved swiftly toward the six-gun that hung at his hip. Then seeing that Buck was alone, his hand dropped Slowly he came close, taking in Buck's pack mule, and the mining equipment leaded on the animal's back.

"Planning to do a little mining—here?" the man saked.

Buck nodded, "That's right, I worked it a few years ago, and, far's I know, mobody's not a claim on it. How about you? Doing tha

The stranger modded "Er-sych! Haven't really got started yet. My name's Bradley, by

the way, Muster, "

Buck dismounted from the buy It felt good to have his rangy legs on the ground. "And I'm Buck Desmond," he said. "Mind if I put my gray his the said."

Bradley strugged "Up to you! I'm not the hoss here." He bestated a moment, then gave has gun belt a hitch. "Reckon I'll be going down in the shaft again and take a look at a couple of the old closed-off veine." He turned away from Brack, and disappeared in the old sibte opening.

#INLOADING the imair. Rule carreed but the couple of the

As he did so, he cast a yearled look about. "Strange ... mpkny strange! Here Bradley says he's been planning to do some digneg, but he han't got dynamic or fuses, or vern a york or shovel. And he was mighty leary when I called to him. I wonder. ..."

His brown wrinkled, Buck hifted the bags of flour and order furit out or the sack hed had them in They'd been wrapped in a wrinkled old presupert. Buck garded to fine the

"That beadline!"

#### GARRY HAYES WESTERN

He flattened the paper out on the roughplanked table.

The headline said: "Bank Bandit Sought By Posset!" The story below it began: "White Spence, well-known bank bandit, was being parsued by a ten-man posse today after an unsuccessful attempt to rob the Cisyben bank Sheriff Will Grover of Clayforn stated

bank Sheriff Will Grover of Clayborn stated that . . ."

The newspaper was ripped below that to Back could read no further. But just below the headline, was a picture of the outlaw and it was a picture of the stranger Buck had just found lurking in the mine!

and it was a picture of the stranger Buck had just found lurking in the mine! "Male Spence," Buck said slowly to himself! "So that's why he's hading out here."

66SHORE IS. Desmond?" A harsh voice broke in on Buck. "And I don't aim to have anyone ruin my hideout, either!" Buck whirled swiftly. There, standing broad in the doorway, was

Milo Spence. He grinned through stubbled lips. He held a Colt unwavering in his hand. "I wondered how long it'd take you to catch on, Mister," he husked. "An" now that you

have . . ."
He lifted the gun slowly. Buck realized that
he was going to pull the trigger and shoot

Humping his shoulders, a prayer on his tightened lips, Burk lunged forward into a bull-like rush. He was a scart foot from the outlaw when Spence's gan went off. The flame seared past Buck's temple, almost blinding him, and the aerid powder small bit at his

Then be was upon Spence, his first pumping hard into the man's end-section. The powerfully-built outlaw gave way momentarily, trying to get room to use his gun. But Buck failed out with his hand, smeshing Spence across the wrist. The six-gun thudded to the

across the wrist. The six-gun thudded to the ground.

As the cursing outlaw dove for his weapon, Buck flung himself upon his back. The two were gripped together for a moment, strus-

gling in a bear-like hold.

Them, twisting savagely, Milo Spence broke away.

His even elittering, he swood, "You saked

for this, Dessands." Boots first, he launched himself through the air at the rambling cowboy, Buck tried despirately to dodge the attack, but the heavy-soled boots emasted into this cases, knocking him backward, into the crate of food he'd just unpacked.

Again Specae auxiet. "Thirll be the end!"

High fato the air he bounded, to come down upon Book with a bone-crushing, stamping stacks. But at the last moment, Buch, unable to twist away, felt something behind his heed. It was a bag of four, burst open by his fall. His hand desperately clutched the bag and he flung it into the air. At once, a white, dense, cloud seemed to explode?

The outlaw came down, but, blinded by the

• The outlaw came down, but, blinded by the floor, he missed Buck! And now Buck, springing up from the floor.

And now Buck, springing up from the floor, waded into his enemy, both fists working like pistons.

The rembling cowband would not be denied.

The blood was pounding in his temples pounding with fury—and the muscles of his back and biceps were like white-bot metal, as he harameted savagely at the outlaw. Finally, Milo Spence slumped to the floor.

He was through.
"Nice going, Buck!"
For the second time that day, a voice spoke from the doorway. Buck turned. This time, instead of an outlaw, he saw Sheriff Grover.

of Clayborn standing framed in the doorway with the men of the posse behind him. Buck wiped away the blood that was beginning to trinkle down his jaw.

"Thanks, Sheriff," he sand. He pointed at Spence. "I recken this is what you're after. Saw a notice in the Glayborn paper about him. Then he introd mt. So we had it out?"

Shreff Grover grunned. "I'll say you did! But tall me, Buck, what were you doing here?"
"I was planning to work a voin 10 discovered years ago un to add mine. Needed mouse you boy's schooling." Buck slowly rubbed has kenceles. They were sore, and beginning to swell vinthly. "But after working out on Spence, I don't know how soon I'll be able to go to work in the mine. Deatt rection I'll be able to pandle a shoved for weeks!"

The special perimen.

"Buck," he said, "I reckon you didn't read that whole newspaper story or you wouldn't be worrying. It went on to say that the town and bank are offering a slatble reward for Spence—five hundred dollars, in fact!

"There's your achooling for Tumblewood.

... and then some!"
THE END

Follow BUCK DESMOND on the adventure trail in every issue of GABBY HAYES GABBY HAYES WESTERN





















